

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Town and Port of Newhaven,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1904.

T. PONSFORD CANN, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Members of the Newhaven Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Fourth Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Newhaven Urban District for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1904.

The general health during the year has again been very good, and the death rate, though higher than that of the previous year, is well below the average for the last ten years (1894—1903).

The question of the Pollution of the river Ouse has been disposed of by the inquiry held at Lewes in October by two Local Government Board Inspectors, with a view to determine whether a portion of the river should be declared a stream within the meaning of the Rivers Pollution Acts, 1876 and 1893. The result of the inquiry has been that although the portion of the river has not been declared a stream within the meaning of the Acts, the Local Government Board have written to the Lewes Sanitary Authority requesting them to carry out certain alterations in their methods of sewage disposal which will no doubt be of benefit to all the communities neighbouring on the river.

Experiments which I carried out during the summer to ascertain what became of the sewage from our culverts and if there was any return of it on the flood tide proved very satisfactory, and I am certain that very little if any sewage matter re-enters the harbour.

It is satisfactory to know that the contract has been placed for building the new Isolation Hospital, and it will probably be ready for use before the end of the year.

The Milk and Water supplies continue to be satisfactory. The usual tables required by the Local Government Board and another for the Home Office relating to the working of the Factory Acts are appended.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me and to their Officials who have always co-operated with and helped me with my work.

I am, Gentlemen;

Your obedient Servant,

T. PONSFORD CANN,

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION.

At the census of 1901 there were 6,136 persons resident in the Urban District and I estimate the population at the middle of the year 1904 to be 6,680.

Birth Rate.—There were 181 births registered during the year, a decrease of 1, giving a birth rate of 27·09 per thousand inhabitants. This is the lowest birth rate for the last ten years and considerably below the average which is 31·39. The years' birth rate for England and Wales 27·90 is the lowest on record.

Death Rate.—The total number of deaths registered was 85, an increase of 15 on last year, giving a gross death rate of 12·72 which is well below the average for the last ten years.

Eight of the deaths were those of non-residents who died in the Union Infirmary, and these should be deducted from the total number of deaths to give the nett total of 77 and a nett death rate of 11·52.

Infant Mortality.—Twenty-eight infants died before reaching the age of one year, giving an infantile mortality of 154·69 per thousand births.

Table to show the birth and death rates of Newhaven compared with those of England and Wales.

	BIRTHS.	RATE.	DEATHS.	RATE.	INFANT MORTALITY RATE.
Newhaven	181	27·09	77	11·52	154·69
England and Wales	944,703	27·90	549,393	16·2	145·53.

The Zymotic Death Rate expresses the number of deaths per thousand of population from the principal infectious diseases, viz.:—Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, the Fevers (Typhus, Typhoid and Puerperal), and Diarrhoea.

During the year there were 13 deaths from these diseases, viz.:—Diphtheria three, Whooping Cough five, Typhoid Fever one, Puerperal Fever one, and Diarrhoea three.

The zymotic death rate is therefore 1·94.

These figures include the fatal case of Diphtheria at the Rural Council's Sanatorium, which was imported from near Rottingdean.

Tubercular Diseases.—There were nine deaths from Phthisis and five from other Tubercular diseases, as against five from Phthisis and five from other Tubercular diseases in 1903.

The death rate for Phthisis being 1·34 and for all Tubercular diseases 2·09.

Table showing the number of deaths at various ages from all causes during the last 4 years.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
At all Ages	88	71	70	77
Under One Year	34	19	14	28
One Year and under Five	5	2	10	7
Five Years and under 15.....	4	2	3	5
15 " " 25.....	2	2	3	3
25 " " 65.....	21	30	21	20
65 " and upwards	22	16	19	14

In the figures for 1901-2-3 the deaths of both residents and non-residents are included, but for 1904 only those of residents are given.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 29 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.:—Diphtheria 7, Erysipelas 7, Scarlet Fever 10, Typhoid Fever 2, Puerperal Fever 3.

The subjoined table shows the number of notifications of each notifiable disease for the last ten years:—

Year	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.
Total Notifications	29	31	23	47	53	48	27	11	31	27
Typhoid Fever ...	2	3	9	22	6	8	6	9	13	10
Diphtheria	7	5	1	4	3	16	2	0	3	3
Scarlet Fever... ...	10	13	2	12	33	2	4	0	9	10
Erysipelas	7	9	10	9	10	21	15	2	6	4
Puerperal Fever ...	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Small Pox	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enteric (Typhoid) Fever.—Two cases notified.

The first case was that of a woman who while nursing her husband, suffering from this disease, was in the habit of keeping her food in the sick room in spite of my protests, the food no doubt became contaminated and as a result she became ill and died.

The second case was that of a child aged 1 year and 5 months. This was a mild case and I was unable to ascertain the cause.

Diphtheria.—Seven cases notified.

The first case was notified as doubtful and made a good recovery. Three others were slight and no cause for their occurrence could be discovered. The remaining three cases were fatal, and in each case there were certain defects with regard to the drainage system, and particularly the air inlets to the drains which are so easily put out of order and from their positions near the ground are very accessible to children.

Two cases were treated in the Sanatorium.

There was one fatal case in the Rural Council's Sanatorium.

Scarlet Fever.—Ten cases notified.

Seven cases were among children at the Workhouse, six being notified in January and one in September.

It is an interesting fact that on each occasion there were patients suffering from this disease in the Rural Council's Sanatorium situated about 100 yards to the west of the yard in which the small children at the Workhouse play, and I believe that the infection was in some way conveyed from the Sanatorium. The disease broke out among the very young children who do not come into the town to school.

Of the others two cases were in Chapel Street and one in Norman Road, all probably imported from other towns.

Puerperal Fever.—Three cases notified.

The first was fatal and probably due to the patient being in an unhealthy and septic condition before confinement.

The second and third cases were both nursed by the same mid-wife by whom I believe the infection was conveyed.

The mid-wives were stopped from attending other cases for a month and their clothing, &c. disinfected. All the infected bedding, &c. which could not be disinfected was destroyed by burning.

Erysipelas.—Seven cases notified.

One case at the Workhouse was fatal.

Smallpox.—I am glad to say that the town has again been free from this disease. Rather more than 50 per cent of the children reaching the age of four months are vaccinated. This is not at all a satisfactory state of things and is brought about by the ease with which parents can obtain exemptions.

Whooping Cough.—This disease has been very prevalent during the whole year, and was responsible for five deaths. Owing to the large number of cases the Managers of the Conneil's Schools, acting on my advice, closed the infants school for the summer vacation one week earlier than usual, viz., on July 25th.

Measles and Chicken Pox were not much seen during the year.

Diarrhoea.—In spite of the hot and dry weather in the summer there was very little of this disease, and only three deaths were certified from this cause, all among infants under one year of age.

Influenza.—There were a large number of cases towards the end of the year, none fatal.

Water Supply.—The public water supply continues to be excellent in every way. A new main has been laid under the river about 200 yards above the upper quay. It is sunk more than ten feet below the bed of the river and has been subjected to severe tests for leakages, but none could be detected.

Milk Supply.—The milk supplied to the town is of a uniformly good quality. Samples have from time to time been taken by the Inspector and found to be satisfactory. The dairies are clean and well kept.

Sewage Disposal.—Under the supervision of the Surveyor the sewers continue to work in an efficient manner. During the year I carried out a number of experiments with specially designed floats to discover if any appreciable amount of sewage returned into the harbour on the flood tide, and the results were most satisfactory. I found that floats taking the current on the surface and at two feet and four feet below the surface if started at either culvert at the moment when the penstock was closed down would all reach the end of the Breakwater about the time the flood tide set in. They then set away across the harbour mouth towards Blatchington and after about an hour they again set back towards the harbour, by this time the sewage matter must have been enormously diluted and the water returning was found by chemical and bacteriological analysis to be almost as pure as the water in mid-channel.

Refuse Disposal is carried out by the Conneil's men, ash-bins, &c. being regularly emptied and cleansed. The refuse is taken out of the Urban District and used in brick making. There have been no complaints.

Disinfection after cases of infectious disease is still imperfectly performed owing to the absence of a steam disinfecting apparatus, this will, however, be remedied during the year (1905) on the completion of the new Isolation Hospital, when a modern apparatus will be available.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Under this Act certain duties devolve upon the Medical Officer of Health, and he is required to deal specifically with the administration of the Act in his Annual Report, and to send a copy of this part to the Secretary of State, and this year he is requested to complete certain forms giving a resumé of the work done.

A register is kept by the Council of all workshops within the district.

There are no workshops in the district in which dangerous or offensive trades are carried on.

The Factories and Workshops have been inspected from time to time by the Inspector and myself.

The sanitation is satisfactory and no serious nuisance or defect has been discovered.

Notices to whitewash walls have been complied with and w.c. accommodation has been provided where required.

There are seven retail bakehouses (none underground), mechanical power being used in one of them. They have been found clean and well ventilated. Their floors are dry and properly drained ; the walls and ceilings are whitewashed every three months.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, &c.

YEARS	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Population estimated to the middle of the Year	5264	5394	5543	5691	5839	5988	6136	6284	6432	6680
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population ...	32·5	30·94	30·00	31·07	32·75	31·35	34·40	30·23	28·29	27·09
Deaths under One Year of Age to 1,000 Births	100·59	103·66	139·33	103·44	205·26	86·48	113·74	100·00	76·92	154·69
Total Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	14·61	17·75	16·54	11·96	18·10	14·74	14·24	11·30	10·88	12·72
Nett General Death Rate per 1,000	14·03	15·84	14·18	9·46	15·00	14·00	13·27	10·34	9·63	11·52
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	1·27	2·60	·60	·82	2·15	1·28	2·26	·47	·62	1·94
Death Rate from Phthisis per 1,000	·92	·52	1·00	·65	·30	·85	1·14	·95	·77	1·34
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1,000	1·91	1·73	2·60	·82	1·84	1·28	2·70	2·54	2·64	2·54
Senile Mortality, deaths at ages of 65 and over as per centage of Total Deaths...	15·2	23·8	25·2	26·2	23·8	16·8	25·0	22·53	20·75	18·18

1904.

PORT SANITARY REPORT.

To the Members of the Newhaven Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to report that the health of the crews of the ships in the harbour has again been very good.

There have been no notifications of infectious disease.

The ships have been frequently inspected but no serious sanitary defects have been discovered.

Eighteen notices have been served on the Masters of ships to clean and replenish their water tanks. Six notices to clean and two to whitewash forecastles have been complied with.

On one ship the soil pipe from a w.c. was found to be leaking into the hold. A notice was served and the nuisance abated.

There has been a large increase in the number of passengers crossing to and from Dieppe, particulars of which for the last four years are given below.

YEAR.	NEWHAVEN TO DIEPPE.		DIEPPE TO NEWHAVEN.	
	Voyages.	Passengers.	Voyages.	Passengers.
1901	745	86,386	745	95,650
1902	738	93,017	737	101,677
1903	741	97,652	742	104,435
1904	744	103,037	744	110,461

There has been a large decrease in the number of ships in Foreign trade entering and clearing the harbour during the year; while there has been an increase of 51 steamships entering and clearing in the Coasting trade. The number of Sailing Ships in the Coasting trade has decreased.

Return showing the number and tonnage of Steam and Sailing Vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Newhaven during the year 1904 :—

I.—FOREIGN TRADE.	STEAM VESSELS.		SAILING VESSELS.		TOTAL VESSELS.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered ...	1,685	375,895	142	14,683	1,827	390,578
Cleared ...	1,667	367,912	119	12,263	1,786	380,175
II.—COASTING TRADE.						
Entered ...	520	123,738	100	14,523	620	138,261
Cleared ...	526	128,975	129	18,021	655	146,996

My best thanks are due to Captain Morris, Marine Superintendent, and to the Collector of Customs, for the information they have kindly given me concerning the trade of the Port.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. PONSFORD CANN.

MARCH, 1905.

